

Office hours 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION** (Madison) .... 608/275-3266

Central Office Info Center ..... 608/266-2621  
Dodgeville..... 608/935-3368  
Horicon ..... 920/387-7860  
Janesville..... 608/743-4800  
Poynette..... 608/635-8110

**SOUTHEAST REGION** (Milwaukee) ..... 414/263-8500

Hartford (Pike Lake) ..... 262/670-3400  
Kettle Moraine State Forest S. Unit ..... 262/594-6200  
Kettle Moraine State Forest N. Unit ..... 262/626-2116  
Plymouth ..... 920/892-8756  
Sturtevant ..... 262/884-2300

**NORTHEAST REGION** (Green Bay)..... 920/492-5800

Oshkosh..... 920/424-3050  
Peshtigo..... 715/582-5000  
Sturgeon Bay Service Center ..... 920/746-2860  
Wautoma ..... 920/787-4686

**WEST CENTRAL REGION** (Eau Claire)..... 715/839-3700

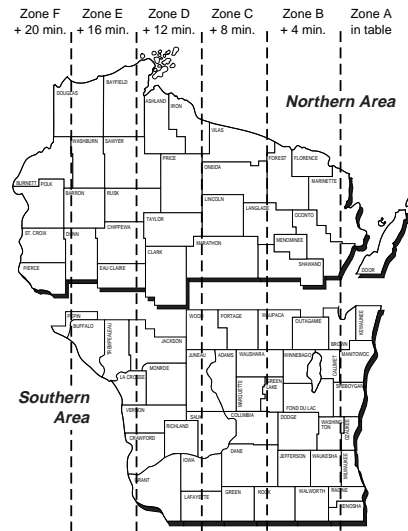
Baldwin ..... 715/684-2914  
Black River Falls..... 715/284-1400  
La Crosse ..... 608/785-9000  
Wausau ..... 715/359-4522  
Wisconsin Rapids..... 715/421-7800

**NORTHERN REGION**

Antigo ..... 715/627-4317  
Cumberland..... 715/822-3590  
Park Falls..... 715/762-3204  
Rhinelander ..... 715/365-8900  
Spooner ..... 715/635-2101  
Superior ..... 715/392-7988  
Woodruff ..... 715/356-5211

**HOURS**

To determine the opening (a.m.) and closing (p.m.) times for all zones, add the minutes shown (see map) to the times listed in the table below.



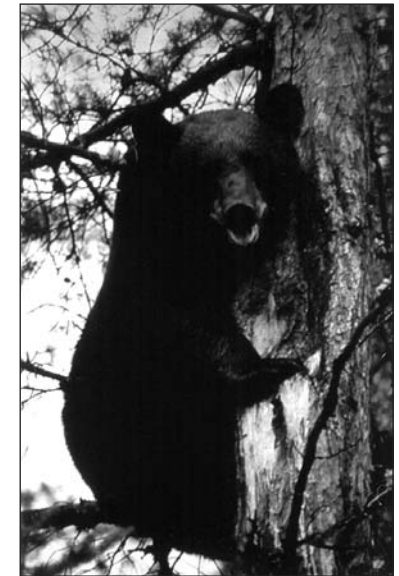
**HUNTING HOURS**

Northern Time Zone			Southern Time Zone		
September					
Date	A.M.	P.M.	Date	A.M.	P.M.
4	5:45	7:43	4	5:48	7:41
5	5:46	7:41	5	5:49	7:39
6	5:47	7:39	6	5:50	7:38
7	5:49	7:37	7	5:51	7:36
8	5:50	7:35	8	5:52	7:34
9	5:51	7:33	9	5:53	7:32
10	5:52	7:31	10	5:54	7:30
11	5:53	7:29	11	5:56	7:29
12	5:55	7:27	12	5:57	7:27
13	5:56	7:25	13	5:58	7:25
14	5:57	7:23	14	5:59	7:23
15	5:58	7:21	15	6:00	7:21
16	6:00	7:19	16	6:01	7:19
17	6:01	7:18	17	6:02	7:18
18	6:02	7:16	18	6:04	7:16
19	6:03	7:14	19	6:05	7:14
20	6:05	7:12	20	6:06	7:12
21	6:06	7:10	21	6:07	7:10
22	6:07	7:08	22	6:08	7:08
23	6:08	7:06	23	6:09	7:07
24	6:09	7:04	24	6:10	7:05
25	6:11	7:02	25	6:11	7:03
26	6:12	7:00	26	6:13	7:01
27	6:13	6:58	27	6:14	6:59
28	6:15	6:56	28	6:15	6:57
29	6:16	6:54	29	6:16	6:56
30	6:17	6:52	30	6:17	6:54
October					
Date	A.M.	P.M.	Date	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:18	6:50	1	6:18	6:52
2	6:20	6:49	2	6:20	6:50
3	6:21	6:47	3	6:21	6:48
4	6:22	6:45	4	6:22	6:47
5	6:23	6:43	5	6:23	6:45
6	6:25	6:41	6	6:24	6:43
7	6:26	6:39	7	6:25	6:41
8	6:27	6:37	8	6:27	6:40

DNR WM 107 0001

MOE162

# WISCONSIN BEAR HUNTING REGULATIONS



## SEASON DATES

❖ Zone C and portions of Zone A and B where dogs **are not** permitted:

**September 4–October 8**

❖ Subzone A1 and portions of Zone A and B where dogs **are** permitted:

**September 4–September 10**

- ➡ with aid of bait
- ➡ with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

**September 11–October 1**

- ➡ with aid of dogs
- ➡ with aid of bait
- ➡ with other methods

**October 2–October 8**

- ➡ with aid of dogs only

**VISIT THE DNR WEBSITE AT  
WWW.DNR.STATE.WI.US**



Department of Natural Resources  
Box 7921  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707



## NEW FOR 2002—ON-LINE CONVENIENCE!



- ❖ Apply for your bear permit on-line!
- ❖ Purchase your bear license on-line!

**CHECK OUT**

**www.dnr.state.wi.us FOR DETAILS.**

### ***Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,***

*The 2001 bear season ended on a high note with our management quota being filled and many calls and letters coming in to my office from happy bear hunters. To accomplish this it takes teamwork, which includes the user groups working hand in hand with professional biologists to create and maintain a successful bear management system. I hope we can continue on this joint management approach into the future, as I believe this approach has turned the black bear in Wisconsin from pest to highly sought after trophy. In addition to being a very popular animal with the hunting fraternity, it is also highly prized by the non-hunter as an icon for wild country in Wisconsin.*

*Starting this year, Bear hunters will find online services that will make it even easier to submit a bear hunting application or to purchase licenses. Please visit our website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) for more information.*

*I hope that the new year will have all the bear interest groups reflecting on the world events and making sure that one of Wisconsin's biggest family events, bear hunting, continues to grow in popularity. Thanks again for allowing me the privilege of working with a premier species like the black bear and with the many devoted constituent groups that also love this animal.*

*Sincerely,*



*Bill Mytton  
Deer, Bear and Elk Specialist*

## **NOTE: NEW RULES FOR 2002**

- ❖ Dogs that fall out of the chase can legally be replaced, however no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of bear hunters and regardless of the dog ownership.
- ❖ Bear are not required to be exposed in a vehicle prior to registering the animal.
- ❖ The legal definition of an adult bear is one that measures 42" inches or greater, measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.

## **LICENSES AND PERMITS**

### **TO APPLY:**

The application deadline for a Class A bear license in 2003 is January 17. Applicants must purchase a Special Permit Application (SPA) sticker and affix it to a "Class A Bear Hunting License/Preference Point Application." SPA stickers and applications are available at all license agents, DNR Service Centers, by calling toll-free 1-877-945-4236 (have your Visa or MC ready; there is a \$3.00 handling fee), or by going on line at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us). Applicants can apply for either a preference point (*Category 1- Class A License Refusal and Preference Acceptance*) or a license (*Category 2- Receive Class A License*). If you do not plan to purchase a license, do not choose Category 2— **if selected, you will lose your preference points even if you do not purchase your Class A License.**

### **CLASS B LICENSE**

**(RESIDENTS: \$8, NON-RESIDENTS: \$100)**

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license is required to *assist* a bear harvest permit holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. A Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

### **CLASS A LICENSE**

**(RESIDENTS: \$41, NON-RESIDENTS: \$201)**

Formerly called a "bear harvest permit," a Class A bear license allows the holder to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B bear license.

### **BEAR HUNTING BACK TAG**

A bear hunting Back Tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be worn while hunting bear, training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A bear license. The back tag must be attached to the center of a person's coat, shirt, jacket or outermost garment where it can be clearly seen. Back tags do not have to be worn while baiting bears.

### **PERMIT ISSUANCE**

The number of bear permits issued per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference system. Applicants who have been unsuccessful for the greatest number of years are chosen first. Hunters must apply every 3 years to maintain their preference status.

## **FIREARM AND ARCHERY RESTRICTIONS**

### **IT IS ILLEGAL TO:**

- ❖ Hunt bear with any rim-fire rifle, .17 caliber center-fire rifle, .410 shotgun, fully automatic firearm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- ❖ Use handguns, unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5½ inches measured from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- ❖ Use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger.
- ❖ Hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- ❖ Possess while hunting, any crossbow (except disabled residents and nonresidents under DNR permit) or poisoned, drugged or explosive tipped arrow.
- ❖ Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

## **ROAD HUNTING**

### **IT IS ILLEGAL TO:**

- ❖ Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center.
- ❖ Discharge a firearm, or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the roadway's center.

This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.

*Note: Class A disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call 608-267-2452 for more information.

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- ❖ Shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill, or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs. (Research has provided us with a general guideline for distinguishing adult bears from cubs. **Note: State Administrative code has defined an adult bear as a bear exceeding 42 inches, as measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.** Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42 inch log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear.) *If you're not sure, don't shoot!*
- ❖ Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.
- ❖ Sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

### ZONES

- ❖ **Hunters who apply for and receive a Class A bear license for subzone A1 may hunt only in subzone A1. Hunters who receive a Class A bear license to hunt in zone A may hunt in subzone A1 or any part of zone A.**

Zone A has been split in an effort to shift hunting pressure from the more heavily hunted portions of zone A to subzone A1, an area which has traditionally received less pressure and has had greater numbers of bear damage and nuisance complaints. Because A1 is a subzone and falls within zone A, the State Administrative Code requires that hunters with zone A licenses be allowed to also hunt in subzone A1.

### QUESTIONS?

For updated season & license information call the WI DNR Hunting License & Season Information Line.

**1-800-282-0367**

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- a. place, use or hunt over bait contained within or containing metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood (other than hollow stumps) or other nondegradable materials.
- b. use any baiting material, liquid or scent for attracting wild animals containing honey, bones, fish, meat, solid animal fat (which includes bacon grease) or parts of animal carcasses.
- c. place or hunt over baiting material, liquid or scent within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public.
- d. hunt over baiting material, liquid or scent during the archery season without possessing a valid, unused bear harvest permit or archery deer tag.
- e. use or hunt over a baited area containing more than 10 gallons of bait material or liquid scent. *Note: You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices.*

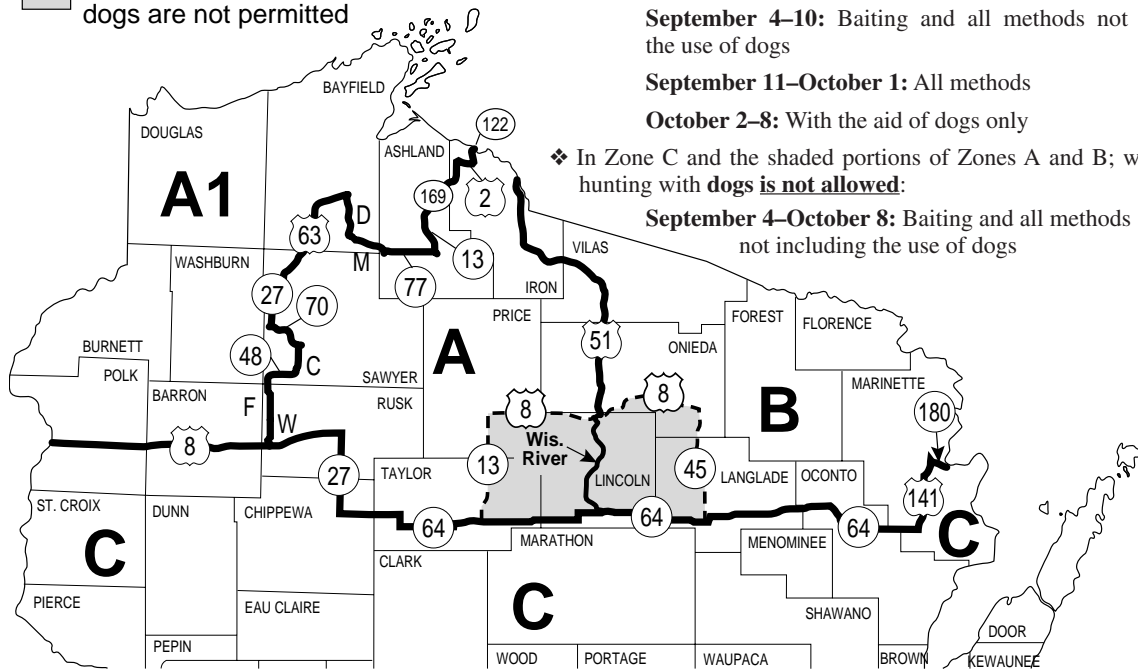
### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- ❖ hunt or pursue animals, or train dogs, in an area baited in violation of **a, b, or e** (above) from July 1 through January 1 unless the area is completely free of baiting material for at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.

## BEAR HUNTING MANAGEMENT ZONES

— Black Bear management zone boundary

■ Portions of zones A and B where dogs are not permitted



(Zone C extends south to Wisconsin State Line)

### 2002 SEASON DATES

- ❖ In Zone A1 and the unshaded portions of Zones A and B, where bear hunting with **dogs is allowed**:

**September 4–10:** Baiting and all methods not including the use of dogs

**September 11–October 1:** All methods

**October 2–8:** With the aid of dogs only

- ❖ In Zone C and the shaded portions of Zones A and B; where bear hunting with **dogs is not allowed**:

**September 4–October 8:** Baiting and all methods not including the use of dogs

### TAGGING AND REGISTRATION

- ❖ Immediately upon killing, and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag. Immediately following validation, the carcass tag shall be attached to the bear at any location on the bear.
- ❖ If quartered, the carcass tag should be attached to the hide and both hide and carcass should be displayed at registration.
- ❖ Each bear must be registered within the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed **and** within the black bear management zone or subzone in which it was killed no later than 5:00 pm on the day after the kill.
- ❖ The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

### TRANSPORT

#### IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- ❖ Transport another person's unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.

*Note: Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state.*

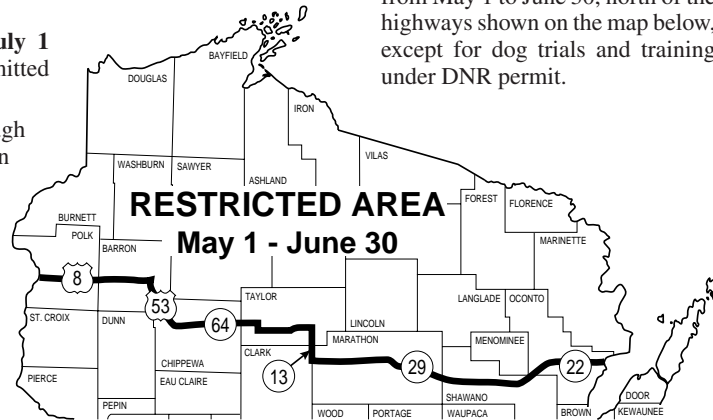


# DOG TRAINING AND USE

## IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- ❖ Hunt bear with dogs, except in the non-shaded portions of zones A, A1, and B of the bear hunting management zones map during the season for dogs.
- ❖ Train dogs by pursuing bear **except** during **July 1 through August 31**. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.
- ❖ Train dogs on DNR lands, from April 15 through July 31, unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet, except on Class 1 field trial grounds or for bear dog training on DNR lands other than state parks after July 1.
- ❖ Hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags or dog license tags for each dog.
- ❖ Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached.
- ❖ Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- ❖ Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog's ownership.
- ❖ Dogs may be replaced that fall out of the chase, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of bear hunters and regardless of the dog ownership.

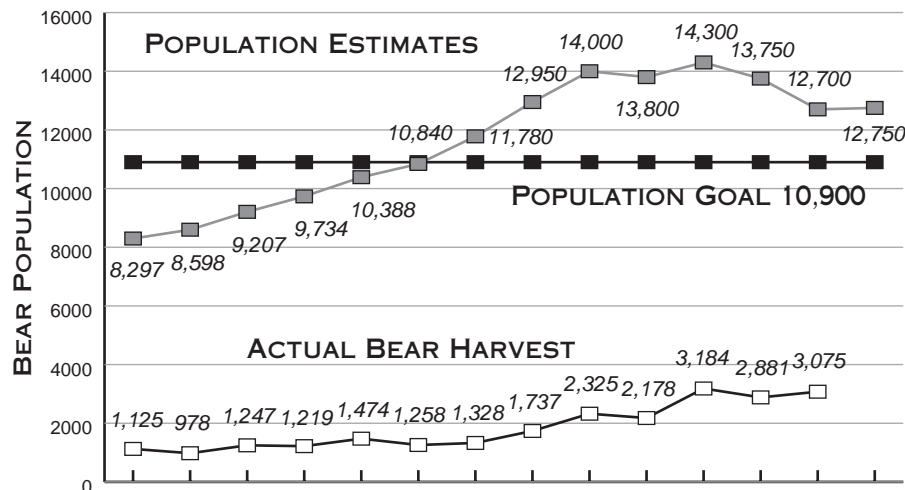
- ❖ Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, except for dog trials and training under DNR permit.



If not in possession of a Class A license, a Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating a bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.



## BEAR POPULATION AND HARVEST TRENDS: 1988-2001



## BEAR DAMAGE ASSISTANCE

Bear damage to crops is sometimes severe enough that the DNR may authorize landowners to kill bears prior to the fall hunting season. We know that many hunters wish to improve hunter-landowner relationships and would be willing to assist in the shooting of bears causing damage. Willing hunters would be expected to act promptly, within 48 hours of notification, and get to the damage site to assist the landowner. Since shooting is restricted to the damage site, dog use is not allowed. Interested hunters should contact their local DNR office for more information.

## TV SHOW FOR KIDS

*Into the Outdoors* is DNR's Emmy Award winning TV show for kids. The half-hour program is hosted by kids who use the Internet to find other kids their age doing outdoor activities and learning about the environment. The show is linked to *EEK!*, DNR's web site for kids, and airs on weekend mornings. See local TV listings for times and stations.



*The contents of this pamphlet were prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the printing costs were paid for by the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association.*



Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association  
6887 HWY E  
Abrams, WI 54101

**SUPPORT ETHICAL  
RESPONSIBLE HUNTING**

**REPORT VIOLATIONS  
CALL 1-800-847-9367**

**TOLL FREE • STATEWIDE • 24-HOUR •**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(THIS IS NOT AN INFORMATION NUMBER.)

Conservation wardens may enter private lands while performing their duties.